

REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to the non-final Office Action mailed July 27, 2007.

Summary of the Office Action

The Office Action mailed July 27, 2007 withdraws the allowability of claims 1-15 and 17-28.

The specification is objected to for allegedly failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the "sealing receptacle" recited in claims 13 and 14.

Claims 1, 5, 9, 15-17, 20, 25, and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,496,270 to Nettekoven.

Claims 2-4, 6-8, 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nettekoven.

Claims 13, 14 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,909,792 to Norelli in view of Nettekoven.

Claims 10-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants note that the Office Action does not provide any basis for rejecting claim 24.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants amend claims 1, 12, 15, 24 and 28.

Claims 1-15 and 17-28 remain pending.

The Objection to the Specification

Applicants respectfully traverse the objection to the specification for allegedly failing to provide proper antecedent for the "sealing receptacle" recited in claims 13 and 14. The Examiner's attention is drawn to paragraph 37 of the original specification, which provides clear

support and antecedent for the “sealing receptacle” recited in claims 13 and 14. *See MPEP 608.01(o) and MPEP 2173.05(e)* (“*There is no requirement that words in the claim must match those used in the specification disclosure.*”).

Applicants further note that the instant Office Action is the fourth received in connection with the present application. Originally-filed claims 13 and 14 contained the term “sealing receptacle.” The issue of antecedent for the “sealing receptacle” in claims 13 and 14 was not raised in any of the three previous Office Actions, which suggests that claims 13 and 14 were well understood in light of the specification.

The Rejections Under Sections 102 and 103

Claims 1-9, 13-15, 17-23 and 25-28 stand rejected under either 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nettekoven alone or in combination with Norelli or allegedly obvious design choices. Applicants traverse those rejections.

This is the fourth non-final Office Action received in connection with the present application. The present application had been allowed, the issue fee paid, and a new continuation application filed to prosecute broader aspects of the invention. Therefore, while disagreeing with the rejections, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 15, and 28, without prejudice or disclaimer, to incorporate the allowable subject matter identified at page 7 of the Office Action. The rejections and objections of the fourth non-final Office Action are believed to have been obviated and the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

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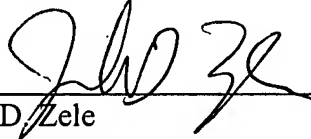
EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this

application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.1 36(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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